

coveted prize. At last my search was rewarded by nests in considerable numbers, and all as nearly alike in location, structure, and materials, as it is possible for nests to be.

Placed a few feet from the ground, and against the trunk of an evergreen tree, it was composed externally of various kinds of mosses, including a few fine sticks, weed-stems and rootlets, and was lined with fine grasses well bleached; so that, outside, the nest was as green as a bunch of fresh moss, and the inside was light brown. The eggs, $.87 \times .63$ of an inch, are light bluish-green, speckled with brown.

About the Mud and Seal Islands dense fogs prevail almost continually throughout the summer. This excessive moisture, so productive of mosses, causes the moss in the walls of the Thrushes' nests to grow; hence the nests of previous years, well protected from the weather by dense evergreens, become elegant moss-baskets finely ornamented within and without with living cryptogams. I saw a number such, which looked as if they had grown *in situ* on the trees.

Some 7 inches or a little less in length, Bicknell's Thrush, as above found, is uniform deep olive-brown above; the sides of the white under parts being ashy-gray, and the sides of the neck and the upper part of the breast but slightly tinged with buff; while the neck and breast-spots are not so large as in the typical *swainsoni*.

To my eye the bird does not appear so large as the other Thrushes, and the bill is unmistakably differentiated, both by its slenderness and by its delicately carved outline.

BIRDS OF THE LOWER URUGUAY.

BY WALTER B. BARROWS.

(Continued from p. 113.)

141. **Phalacrocorax brasilianus** (*Gm.*). CUERVO DEL AGUA (WATER CROW).—An abundant resident at Concepcion on all streams, large and small. Usually met with in pairs or small

parties at this place, while at Buenos Aires flocks of hundreds were frequently seen. It was not met with south of Azul. Of its breeding habits I learned nothing.

142. *Ardea cocoi* Linn. GARZA (HERON).—A rather common resident, but most abundant in winter. Probably breeds. Not met with on the pampas, where, however, it does occur in abundance at some seasons.

143. *Ardea egretta* Gm. GARZA BLANCA (WHITE HERON).—Abundant; resident; breeds. Seen at every point visited, even as far south as Carhué, where it was abundant early in April, the coldest season.

144. *Ardea candidissima* Gm. GARZA BLANCA CHICA (LITTLE WHITE HERON).—Less abundant than the preceding, but with the same distribution. Doubtless breeds at Concepcion.

145. *Ardea sibilatrix* Temm.—Not common; shy, and solitary. Seen only a few times, in November. Though much resembling the Night Heron, they were active by day, and when disturbed flew rapidly away from the streams and swamps towards the dry woods and sand-hills. Their flight is much quicker than that of any other Heron of my acquaintance.

146. *Butorides cyanurus* (Vieill.).—Abundant, but only in spring and summer, when it is so unsuspecting that you may frequently row past it in a boat at twenty-five feet distance without disturbing it in the least. I saw it only at Concepcion, where it undoubtedly breeds.

147. *Ardetta involucris* (Vieill.).—This tiny Heron, so similar to our own *A. exilis*, seems to be a rather common summer resident from Brazil almost or quite to Patagonia. Indeed it may remain the whole year round in the marshes of the pampas, for while I only met with it in summer at Concepcion I several times saw it at Carhué in April, long after winter had fairly set in. It is rarely seen, even where most abundant, and it was almost impossible to get a second sight at one which had been once started from the reeds. I did not succeed in finding its nest.

148. *Nycticorax gardeni* Gm.—Abundant; resident; probably breeds, but I did not meet with its nest. Precisely similar in all its habits to the same bird here.

149. *Ciconia maguari* (Gm.). CIGÜEÑA (STORK).—A rather common resident at Concepcion; often seen standing statue-

like on some slight rise of ground in the distance, but only with the greatest care and under the most favorable circumstances is it possible to get within shot. Of its nesting habits nothing could be learned.

150. **Tantalus loculator** *Linn.*.—Abundant in summer, commonly in flocks. While feeding they were very unsuspecting and in one case it was only after four shots and five deaths that the remainder of a flock of thirty took lazily to their wings and sought safer ground. During clear, hot days they were often seen to rise in spirals to an immense height and continue floating in circles for hours.

151. **Plegadis falcinellus** (*Linn.*).—The common name, *Bandurria*, of this abundant bird alludes to its custom of associating in large numbers, forming *bandadas* or flocks.

At Concepcion the birds are resident and during winter and spring I sometimes saw them in flocks of one or two thousand, often feeding amicably side by side with several species of Ducks, Plover, and Snipe.

152. **Theristicus melanopis** (*Gm.*).—A small flock was met with on the pampas between Olavarria and Azul, April 12, 1881. There were only twelve or fifteen birds in the flock and they allowed the diligence to pass within about one hundred yards without showing any uneasiness.

153. **Platalea ajaja** (*Linn.*). **ESPAT'ULA** (**SPATULA**).—Not very abundant. Seen usually singly or in pairs, and only in spring or autumn. A slightly wounded one which I kept in my room for a day or two seemed unable to walk without stooping forward, swaying the body from side to side, and striking the bill smartly on the floor. The most southern record which I have is Bahia Blanca, February 17, 1881, at which time a single pair was seen.

154. **Phœnicopterus ignipalliatu**s (*Geoff. et d' Orb.*). **FLAMENCO** (**FLAMINGO**).—Seen only at Puan, March 27 to April 1, 1881. A flock of thirty or forty frequented a small, alkaline pond at that place during our stay, and their flesh formed a part of our regular fare.

155. **Chauna chavaria** (*Linn.*). **CHAJÁ** (the common cry of the bird).—This is the heaviest bird of the country, except the Ostrich, and its flesh is hardly inferior to that of the Turkey. It abounds in the marshes about Concepcion, and was met with on

the pampas to about fifty miles south of Buenos Aires. It is almost invariably found in pairs throughout the year.

In spite of its great weight (25 to 40 pounds) it rises quickly by vigorous flapping, and if there be a breeze soon rises in spirals like an Eagle and floats gracefully away. On the ground they walk with a deliberate gait, recalling that of a Turkey-cock, and they can swim well if forced to it, though they usually prefer to use their wings.

With regard to their breeding habits I could obtain little reliable information from the natives, but I believe they nest on the ground in marshes and lay white eggs.

One shot on December 11, 1880, was standing in the edge of tall grass on the border of a pool and did not see me until I fired. He flew upward a few yards and then fell, and on picking him up I found that he was ruptured across the abdomen so that the bowels protruded in a large mass, evidently the result of the sudden effort to rise.

156. *Chloëphaga magellanica* (Gm.). GANSO DE LA SIERRA (MOUNTAIN GOOSE).—Seen frequently at Carhué in April, but not elsewhere. Probably a second species (*C. poliocephala* Gray) was also seen, as the two species are usually found together, but we took none.

157. *Cygnus nigricollis* (Gm.). CISNE (SWAN).—This species was noted in the salt 'laguna' Epecum, at Carhué, and also at one or two other points on the pampas. I doubt if it ever occurs at Concepcion, though another species (*C. coscoroba*) sometimes does, if the reports of the natives are to be credited.

158. *Querquedula cyanoptera* (Vieill.). PATITO (LITTLE DUCK).—This name is likewise given to the other species of *Querquedula*, as well as to *Erismatura*. This is an abundant species in the streams of the southern pampas in winter, but is not found on the Uruguay, so far as I know.

159. *Querquedula brasiliensis* (Gm.).—This beautiful bird is rather abundant at Concepcion during the cold weather, and a few probably remain to breed, as I noticed a pair as late as December 24, 1880. Unlike most of the other Ducks, it was not often found in flocks, though occasionally a few would mingle in flocks of other species.

160. *Querquedula flavirostris* (Vieill.).—Only seen on the pampas, where it was one of the commoner Teal.

161. *Querquedula versicolor* (*Vieill.*). PATITO (LITTLE DUCK).—Resident at Concepcion, where a few probably breed; but far less abundant in summer than in winter, when it is the commonest and tamest of all the Ducks found there. We found it abundant on the pampas wherever there was water.

162. *Dafila spinicauda* (*Vieill.*).—To this species I refer with some hesitation a *Dafila* which was quite abundant at Concepcion during June, 1880, and was afterwards met with several times on the pampas (Arroyo Pigué, March 23, 1881; Puan, March 28; Carhué, April 6). Unfortunately no skins were saved.

163. *Dafila bahamensis* (*Linn.*).—A single specimen was killed at Carhué, April 7, 1881.

164. *Mareca sibilatrix* *Poepp.*.—First met with near Bahia Blanca in February, 1881, when a few were observed—all moulting. Two months later we found it abundant in all the streams and pools of the pampas near Puan and Carhué.

165. *Spatula platalea* (*Vieill.*).—Only met with on the pampas and in winter. In the salt lakelets of Puan and Carhué it was by far the most numerous of the Ducks, being often seen in flocks of one to two hundred.

166. *Metopiana peposaca* (*Vieill.*). PATO (DUCK).—A Duck the size of the Mallard, and somewhat resembling it in color and flesh. Very abundant on the Uruguay in times of freshet and probably a few breed about Concepcion, as they certainly stay there all summer. It was met with in greater or less abundance at every point visited, and was usually found in flocks of from ten to fifty individuals.

167. *Erismatura dominica* (*Linn.*). PATITO (LITTLE DUCK).—Abundant in the streams of the pampas, associated with *Podiceps rollandi*, Coots and Gallinules. Usually seen in small parties of three to six individuals, which rarely fly, always dive at the flash of a gun, and spend at least half their time, when undisturbed, under water.

168. *Columba picazuro* *Temm.* PALOMA DEL MONTE (WOOD PIGEON).—The largest and least common of the Pigeons observed. Sometimes seen singly, but more often in flocks of twenty-five to two hundred or more individuals. Seen only in woods in the vicinity of Concepcion. Most abundant in winter.

169. *Columba maculosa* *Temm.* TORCAZ (RING DOVE).—A common resident at Concepcion, where it is found in large

flocks through the year. Many nests were found early in November, all placed in trees in dry woods, and only ten or fifteen feet from the ground.

Each nest contained a single white egg. Either the variation in size of the eggs of this species is very great, or else a few of the preceding species were breeding with them; for several eggs were found which were very much larger than the others. I failed, however, to detect a single specimen of *C. picazuro* among the birds which left the trees as we approached. This species was again met with at Carhué.

170. *Zenaida maculata* (Vieill.). PALOMA (DOVE).—Abundant everywhere in thinly wooded districts but not on the bare pampas. At Concepcion it was abundant throughout the year in small flocks, but I failed to discover its nest or eggs.

171. *Columbula picui* (Temm.) PALOMITA (LITTLE DOVE).—This tiny Dove was only met with in abundance in wooded regions, but appears to be gradually spreading over the pampas wherever man carries shrubs and trees. It nests fearlessly in the gardens at Concepcion, and even in the orange trees which border the public square, laying always two white eggs. I think two broods are often reared in a season, but not more. Yet I found occupied nests from November 17, until April 13. At the latter date many of the summer birds had gone north for the winter and the nights were becoming frosty. I found the nests most frequently, however, during January and February.

172. *Leptoptila chalcuachenia* ScL. et Salv. PALOMA (DOVE).—Only seen at Concepcion, where it is an abundant resident. It is almost constantly on the ground, singly or in pairs, never more than three or four together, and usually close to the border of some stream or marsh. When alarmed it takes to the thickets, but very soon seeks the ground, as if it could not endure to perch longer. Yet the only nest I found was placed among the matted branches of some bushes, about seven feet from the ground. The two white eggs were more nearly spherical than are eggs of any other Dove of my acquaintance. During flight the species is easily recognized by the rufous under-wings.

173. *Penelope obscura* Wagl. PAVO DEL MONTE (WOOD TURKEY).—Limited to the borders and islands of the river, where in heavy growths of timber it is not uncommon, though rarely seen. It has a very harsh, cackling cry, and is said

to build a bulky nest in trees and lay white, unspotted eggs. Its flesh is much esteemed, and the bird is easily domesticated.

174. *Rallus maculatus* *Bodd.*—The only specimen obtained was one which had died in captivity, but was supposed to have been taken near Concepcion. More probably it was brought down the river by boatmen from Paraguay or Brazil.

175. *Rallus antarcticus* *King.*—Rather common at Carhué early in April, where the only specimens were obtained. At Concepcion I several times started a bird much resembling this, and which I could not then name. It may have been this bird, or possibly the young of the following species.

176. *Rallus rythyrhynchus* *Vieill.*—Called *Gallineta chica*, or little Rail, at Concepcion, where all the Rails were called *Gallinetas*, though the word is only used properly to indicate the European Sandpiper (*Tringa hypoleuca*). This beautiful Rail—about the size of the Virginia Rail—is the most abundant bird of its family at Concepcion, as well as on the pampas. Resident through the year, it seems to be equally abundant at all times, and often in mid-winter, while watching in the edge of the reeds for passing Ducks, I have had half a dozen of these restless, inquisitive little birds in sight at a time. The colors of bill and legs vary much according to the season. In breeding livery they are among the prettiest of the waders. Although I searched often and long for the nest, I found but one (Oct. 2, 1880), and did not actually catch the bird on that one. The eggs were but two, pure white, with a very few, small, brown spots. The nest was precisely like that of a Virginia Rail, and was placed in a tussock of grass in the middle of a half submerged swamp.

On the Pigué, where this bird was abundant, I shot one which lodged on some slender twigs just above the water. The blood trickling from its bill soon attracted some fish, and after one or two trials a large fish, like a catfish, jumped up nearly a foot and dragged the bird under before I could reach it.

177. *Aramides ypecaha* (*Vieill.*) GALLINETA GRANDE (BIG RAIL).—A noisy bird, as large as a hen, and with some other resemblances to that bird; for example, carrying the tail over the back, running some distance before using the wings, etc.

This is not a rare bird at Concepcion, but from its shyness, and the nature of its favorite ground, it is not an easy bird to secure.

It seems to be equally abundant summer and winter, and was usually found in pairs, which vanished into the depths of some bushy morass on the instant of discovery, and could not again be started. When surprised several rods from cover I have seen them fly well after running half the distance to the cover, but usually they trust entirely to their legs—and indeed they rarely wander far enough from the swamps to make their wings of much use to them. Of their breeding habits I learned nothing.

178. *Gallinula galeata* (Licht.). GALLINA DEL AGUA (WATER HEN).—Abundant at Concepcion, where it is resident and breeds. On Sept. 29, 1880, I saw young following their mother, and two weeks later shot a female just ready to lay. Early in March they were moulting and unable to fly.

This species was abundant at the southernmost points visited, even in cold weather.

179. *Fulica armillata* Vieill. GALLINA DEL AGUA (WATER HEN).—Not uncommon at Concepcion during cold weather; much more abundant, however, further south.

180. *Fulica leucoptera* Vieill.—With the preceding species at Puan and Carhué in March and April, but not at Concepcion.

181. *Aramus scolopaceus* (Gm.). GALLINETA GRANDE (BIG RAIL).—An abundant resident in the neighborhood of Concepcion in all the marshes and on most of the small water-courses wherever impeded with rushes. They seem to feed almost exclusively on the large, fresh-water snail (*Ampullaria*), and the bills of many examined showed a perceptible lateral curve at the end, which I suppose is due to the constant wedging of the bill in the apertures of these shells.

The birds are by no means wary, but once started they are likely to fly half a mile or more before settling, unless there is good cover close at hand.

182. *Parra jacana* Linn. GALLINETA (RAIL).—Hardly to be called abundant at Concepcion, yet certainly not rare, one or more pairs breeding in almost every marsh where there was some clear water and floating vegetation. I never tired of watching them as they ran about apparently on the very surface of the water, clucking to each other and displaying the pea-green wings, cinnamon body, and yellow frontal shield at every short flight. I found no nests, but saw two young just able to fly on March 5, though I presume these may have been from a second nest.

183. *Vanellus cayennensis* (Gm.). TERO-TERO (their common note).—A beautiful bird, but too well known to need any description. Noisy, quarrelsome, always alert and suspicious, it is the bane of all water-fowl shooting in the marshes, and being itself unfit for the table the sportsman could doubly afford to spare its presence.

It nests at Concepcion often before the middle of August, though eggs may sometimes be found as late as December 1. The eggs are three or four in number, light buff, heavily spotted with deep brown and black, and resemble very closely the eggs of the European Lapwing, and, like these latter, are much sought for as delicacies for the table. We found this species abundant on the pampas in most places, but saw none at Carhué during our stay of ten days there.

(To be concluded.)

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RECENT LITERATURE.

The British Museum Catalogue of Birds.—Two volumes* of this great work have appeared during the last year — Volume VII, by Mr. Sharpe, concluding the family Timeliidæ, and Volume VIII, by Dr. Gadow, treating of the Titmice, Shrikes, Tree-Creepers, and Nuthatches.

“The family *Timeliidæ*, an account of which was commenced in the preceding volume [Vol. VI], is here [Vol. VII] completed, with the enumeration and description of 687 species. Of these no less than 548 are contained in the collection of the British Museum. . . . Out of 163 genera described in the present volume only 14 are unrepresented in the British Museum.” The species of this group are all, except one, inhabitants of the Old World, throughout which they are very generally distributed. They are subdivided into the following ten ‘Groups,’ namely, I, *Thamnobiæ*, with 24 genera and about 90 species;

* Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum. Volume VII. Catalogue of the Passeriformes, or Perching Birds. Cichlomorphæ: Part IV, containing the concluding portion of the Family Timeliidæ (Babbling Thrushes). By R. Bowdler Sharpe. London: Printed by order of the Trustees. 1883. 8vo, pp. i-xvi, 1-698, pll. i-xv, and numerous woodcuts in the text.

Volume VIII. Catalogue of the Passeriformes, or Perching Birds. Cichlomorphæ: containing the Families Paridæ and Laniidæ (Titmice and Shrikes), and Certhiomorphæ (Creepers and Nuthatches). By Hans Gadow, Ph.D. London: Printed by order of the Trustees. 1883. 8vo, pp. i-xiii, 1-386, pll. i-ix, and woodcuts in the text.